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長歌行

CHANGGE XING

第8卷

编绘 夏达

SPM
南方出版传媒
新世纪出版社

SummerZoo
夏天动物

【剧情简介】

古武门之宗师，大宇掌建成之女掌长飘使命诞生。为组血海深仇，轻女扮男装，智聚强帮势世民，从跟州郭家报复郭衡服。一路组解重重，所见所闻令长飘心中倒吸一口气，并对自己的「道」产生动摇。在神通真人的点拨下，长飘感悟道，并和阿文那主回到了映化之地长安城郭。在各种势力卷入的围攻下，长飘与郭衡展开决战，无限套近身单向基的长飘能选择了另一条路……

建议儿童类别 | 动漫 | 畅销 | 故事

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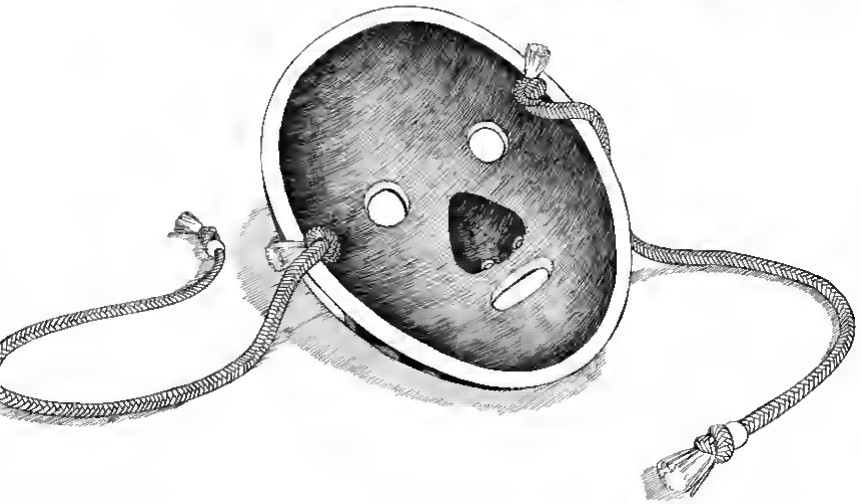
SONG OF THE LONG MARCH

< CHAPTER 37 > PART - I

AUTHOR: XIA DA



WHAT? OLD MASTER QIN IS NOT HERE?
WHEN WILL HE BE BACK?
SMALL TOWN ON THE BORDER
CI YI
YOU GUYS ARE...?
THERE WAS A LETTER A FEW DAYS AGO,
SAYING THAT THEY WILL BE BACK SOON

HE SAYS THAT THE KID WILL BE ABLE TO HELP THE GENERAL
MUJIN WANTS THE OLD MASTER TO ARRANGE FOR HIM TO ACCOMPANY THE GENERAL TO KHITAN,
THIS CHILD'S NAME IS AH'ER QIN
TAK
TAK
TAN
EH?
WAS THERE ANYONE ELSE WITH YOU?
NO.
YOU CAN DISCUSS IT WITH THE OLD MASTER WHEN HE RETURNS
VERY WELL, I WILL ARRANGE SOME ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE TWO OF YOU
ALL RIGHT
!
COULD IT BE THE OLD MASTER...

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!!!
ENEMIES!
I SAW MANY KIDS WEARING THESE ON THE STREETS.
SO I BOUGHT ONE ON A WHIM.

IF YOU WISH TO GO OUTSIDE
YOU CAN USE THIS.
SHI BA,

.....
WILL YOU STOP ME?
MASTER'S WILL,
IS OUR COMMAND.
THEN, CONTINUE TO STAND GUARD AT YOUR POST TOMORROW
I'M GOING INTO SECLUSION FOR THE DAY, PLEASE TURN AWAY ANY VISITORS.
YES.

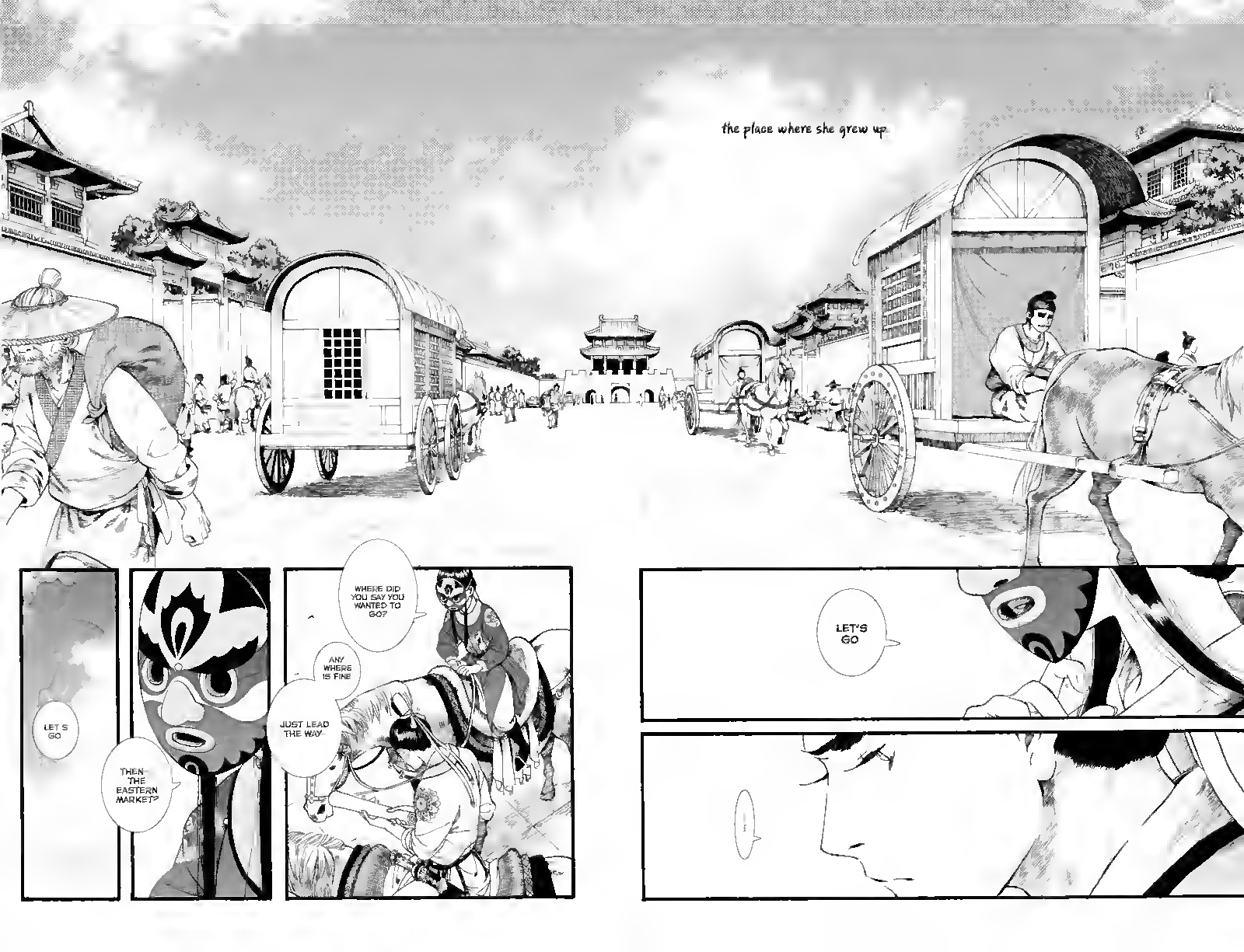
秦
秦
TAKE CARE, YOUNG MASTER,
PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN BEFORE THE CURFEW
YOU WON'T BE FOLLOWING ME?
CLUMSY PEOPLE LIKE US WILL ONLY SPOIL YOUNG MASTER'S MOOD IF WE COME ALONG.
THE HOUSEKEEPER HAS LEFT WORD, THE YOUNG MASTER HAS ALREADY FAMILIARIZED HIMSELF WITH THE STREETS.
COUSIN, PLEASE WAIT.
GULP
GULP
GULP
TAK
TAK

IF YOU STILL NEED SOMEONE TO PROVIDE DIRECTIONS.
THEN LET ME, YOUR YOUNGER COUNSIN, BE THE GUIDE.

Ahem.
THERE IS NO NEED,
I KNOW THE WAY.
THIS IS THE ZHU QUE ROAD,
ONE THAT I PASS BY EVERYDAY.

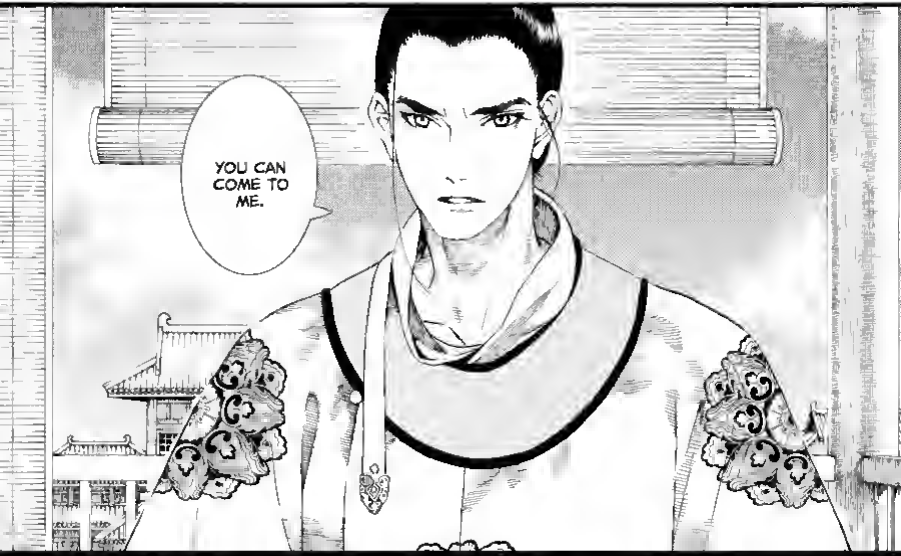
THE WESTERN MARKET HAS YET TO OPEN.
SO WE'LL GO..
AN REN WARD

The Zhu Que Road, measuring over a thousand yards...
is connected to the Zhu Que Gate and the Cheng Tian Gate in the north.
坊德修
坊興輔
坊政須
坊政布
坊仁崇
坊興永
充它
翊善
永昌
來庭
YI TING PALACE
TAIHE PALACE
EAST PALACE
CHENG TIAN GATE
And behind, the cheng tian ga...
to the imperial palace
ZHU QUE GATE


the place where she grew up
LET'S GO
WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO GO?
ANY WHERE IS FINE
JUST LEAD THE WAY
THEN THE EASTERN MARKET?
LET'S GO
LET'S GO
...

PLEASE TAKE A SEAT, YOUNG SIRS.
FEEL FREE TO QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH SOME WINE
YOUR DISHES SHALL BE READY SHORTLY
WE WON'T BE NEEDING ANY ATTENDANTS.
IF THERE IS NOTHING ELSE, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM DISTURBING ME AND MY BROTHER
YES.
PHEW

THE SAN LE JIANG HERE IS EXCEPTIONALLY FLAVORFUL AND REFRESHING
ACCORDING TO RUMOR, IT ORIGINALLY CAME FROM THE WESTERN REGIONS
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY IT?
COUSIN, I HEARD THAT YOU USED TO SPEND MOST OF YOUR DAYS IN THE NORTH-WESTERN REGION
SURELY YOU CAN DISCERN ITS QUALITY
IF THE DAY EVER COMES
WHEN YOU CAN NO LONGER REMAIN IN THE CENTRAL PLAINS


YOU CAN COME TO ME.

YOU CAN COME TO ME.
SAME,
SAME FOR YOU
IF YOU CAN NO LONGER STAY WITH THE TURKS.
YOU CAN COME TO ME.

I WON'T GET USED TO LIVING IN A HAN CITY
THEN WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT I'LL GET USED TO LIVING IN THE GRASSLANDS?
EH? YOU'RE NOT USED TO OUR LIFESTYLE?
IF I HAD TOLD YOU BACK THEN THAT I COULDN'T ADAPT TO THE LIFESTYLE OF THE GRASS LANDS
WOULD YOU HAVE LET ME RETURN TO THE SUI PROVINCE?
LI...
YOU'RE ALSO NOT OF PURE HAN DESCENT, RIGHT?
NO.
I GOT THE COLOR OF MY EYES FROM MY MOTHER,
SHE WAS AN UYGHUR.
SOME OF MY ANCESTORS ALSO HAD XIANBEI* BLOOD.

T/N: XIANBEI WAS ORIGINALLY A NOMADIC TRIBE LOCATED IN THE NORTH-EAST OF MONGOLIA

THE HAN ARE TRULY SCARY
REGARDLESS OF WHO YOU'RE DESCENDED FROM,
ONCE YOU ACCEPT THE HAN'S WAY OF LIFE,
YOU LEARN TO SPEAK HAN, WEAR HAN CLOTHES, AND BEHAVE LIKE A HAN,
ALL YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN...BECOME HAN TO THE ROOT
THE MOST WE CAN DO IS TAKE THE LIVES AND VALUABLES OF OTHERS,
BUT THE HAN...
THEY CAN ACTUALLY CHANGE A PERSON'S "ROOT"

YOUNG SIRS, THE DISHES ARE READY.
MAY WE SERVE THEM?
AS IT HAPPENS TO BE THE DUANWU FESTIVAL.*
OUR SHOP HAS ALSO PREPARED SOME FLOUR AND STICKY RICE DUMPLINGS FOR SAMPLING.
GO AHEAD.
FURTHERMORE, THE YOUNG SIR SEEMS YET TO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF MATURITY.
SO I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO BRING THIS LONGEVITY BRACELET AS A GIFT.*
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TIE IT FOR YOU?

*T/N BRACELET BRAIDED WITH FIVE COLOURS OF THREAD: RED, YELLOW, BLUE, WHITE, AND BLACK. TRADITIONALLY GIVEN TO CHILDREN TO WEAR ON THE DUANWU FESTIVAL.

IT'S BEEN A YEAR...
I TOTALLY FORGOT... TODAY IS THE DUANWU FESTIVAL
WHY?
ONE MORE AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR THAT LONGEVITY BRACELET ANYMORE.
BECAUSE YOUR HIGHNESS WILL COME OF AGE NEXT YEAR, YOU'LL NO LONGER BE A CHILD *

*T/N: IN ANCIENT CHINA GIRLS COME OF AGE AND ARE CONSIDERED OLD ENOUGH TO MARRY AT AGE 15

OI,
OI!
HOW DO YOU EAT THIS THING?
EH?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, HER COMING OF AGE CEREMONY MUST BE PREPARED FOR THOROUGHLY.
YONG NING COULD VERY WELL BE THE ELDER PRINCESS* OF TANG IN THE FUTURE.
*T/N: TITLE GIVEN TO THE SISTER OF THE EMPEROR
SINCE IT IS THE DUANWU FESTIVAL, THERE SHOULD BE DRAGON BOAT RACES GOING ON AS WELL.
IF YOU WISH TO SEE IT, I CAN ARRANGE SOMEONE TO TAKE YOU THERE.
YOU'RE NOT COMING?

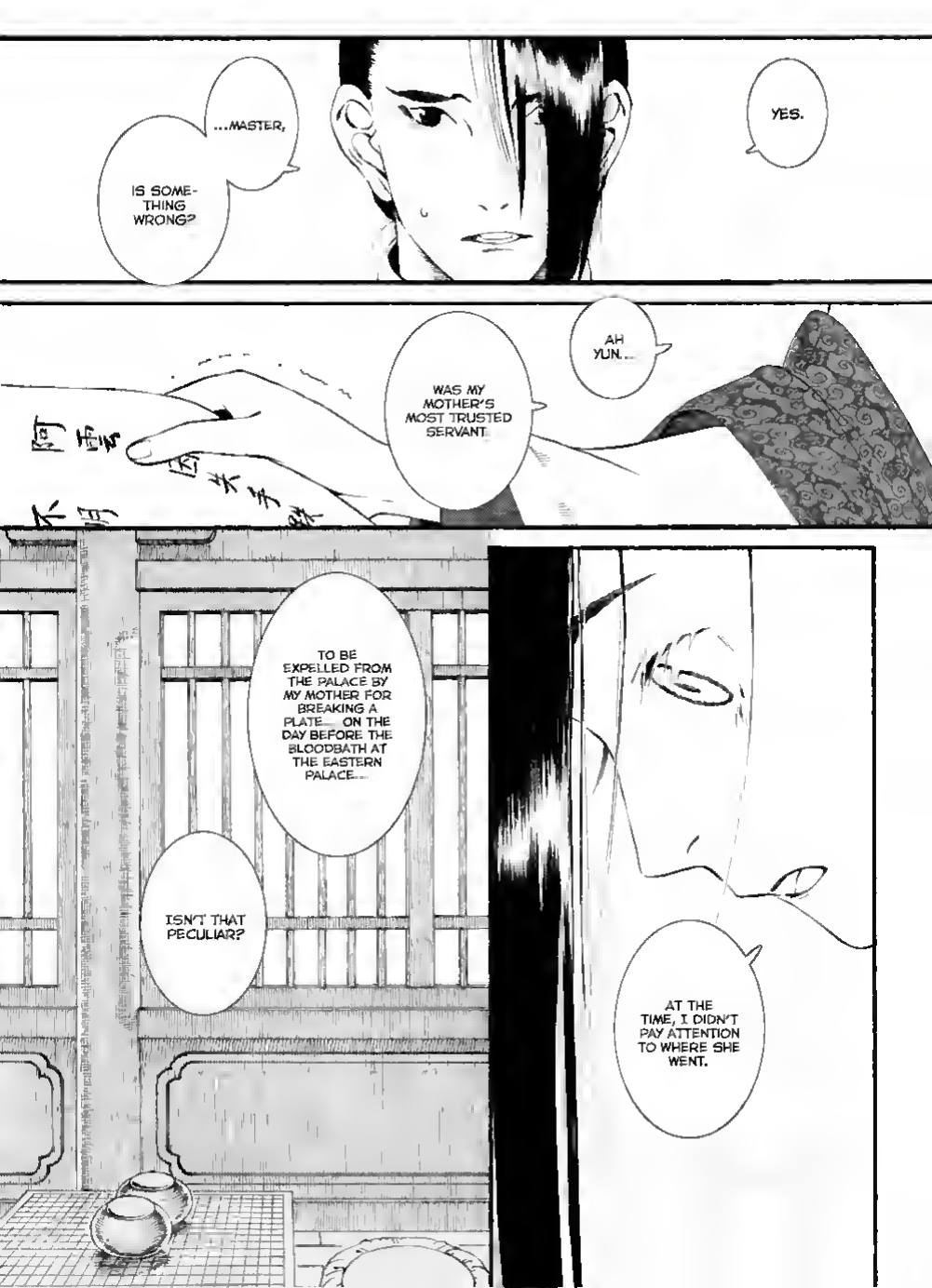
NO.
ACTING BRASHLY ONCE IS ALREADY MORE THAN ENOUGH, NOT EVERYTHING CAN GO ACCORDING TO MY WISHES.
I JUST REALIZED.
I REALLY CAN'T TELL WHETHER YOU ARE "UNABLE" OR JUST "UNWILLING" AT TIMES.
.....
IS THERE A DIFFER-ENCE?
I SAY...

CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE REASONABLE?
I'VE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DISCUSS WITH THE MASTER.
INTRUDERS DIE.
BACK OFF.
.....
FINE, JUST GO AHEAD AND SWING THAT SWORD.

STOP!
MASTER.
WHY ARE YOU DRAWING YOUR SWORD INSIDE THE MANSION?
I WENT TO TAKE A SHORT REST,
SO I PUT SHIBA ON GUARD, FEARING THAT THE SERVANTS MIGHT MESS UP MY DESK.
IT'S MY FAULT FOR CAUSING THIS MISUNDER-STANDING.

PLEASE TAKE A BREAK FOR NOW.
THANK YOU, SHIBA.
I HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING UNDER THE PRETENSE OF LOOKING FOR A FEMALE TUTOR
THE FORMER EASTERN PALACE MAIDSERVANTS YOU HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HAVE MOSTLY BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE YE TING PALACE. NONE HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM SERVICE THUS FAR
REPORT.
YES.
HOWEVER, ONE OF THEM WAS EXPELLED FROM THE PALACE THE DAY BEFORE THE INCIDENT ONE YEAR AGO. HER WHEREABOUTS REMAIN UNKNOWN...
I HAVE COLLATED MY FINDINGS HERE,
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK.

ALSO,
ACCORDING TO OUR ORIGINAL PLAN, THE OLD MASTER'S MESSENGER SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED A FEW DAYS AGO
SO FAR, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO WORD FROM THEM. MY GUESS IS THAT SOMETHING CAME UP ON THEIR END
WHICH MEANS, OUR STAY IN CHANG AN WILL HAVE TO BE EXTENDED
XU FENG,
EARLIER, THE ONE YOU MENTIONED WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM THE PALACE,
IS HER NAME AH YUN?
YES.
PUT DOWN EVERYTHING YOU ARE DOING AND FOCUS ALL OUR EFFECTS INTO FINDING HER.


...MASTER, IS SOMETHING WRONG?
YES.
AH YUN...
WAS MY MOTHER'S MOST TRUSTED SERVANT
TO BE EXPELLED FROM THE PALACE BY MY MOTHER FOR BREAKING A PLATE... ON THE DAY BEFORE THE BLOODBATH AT THE EASTERN PALACE...
ISN'T THAT PECULIAR?
AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHERE SHE WENT.

SONG OF THE LONG MARCH

Author /Artist Xia Da 夏达
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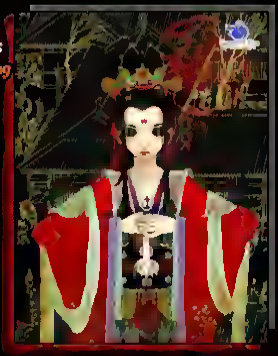

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SONG OF THE LONG MARCH

<CHAPTER 37>

PART-I

AUTHOR: XIA DA

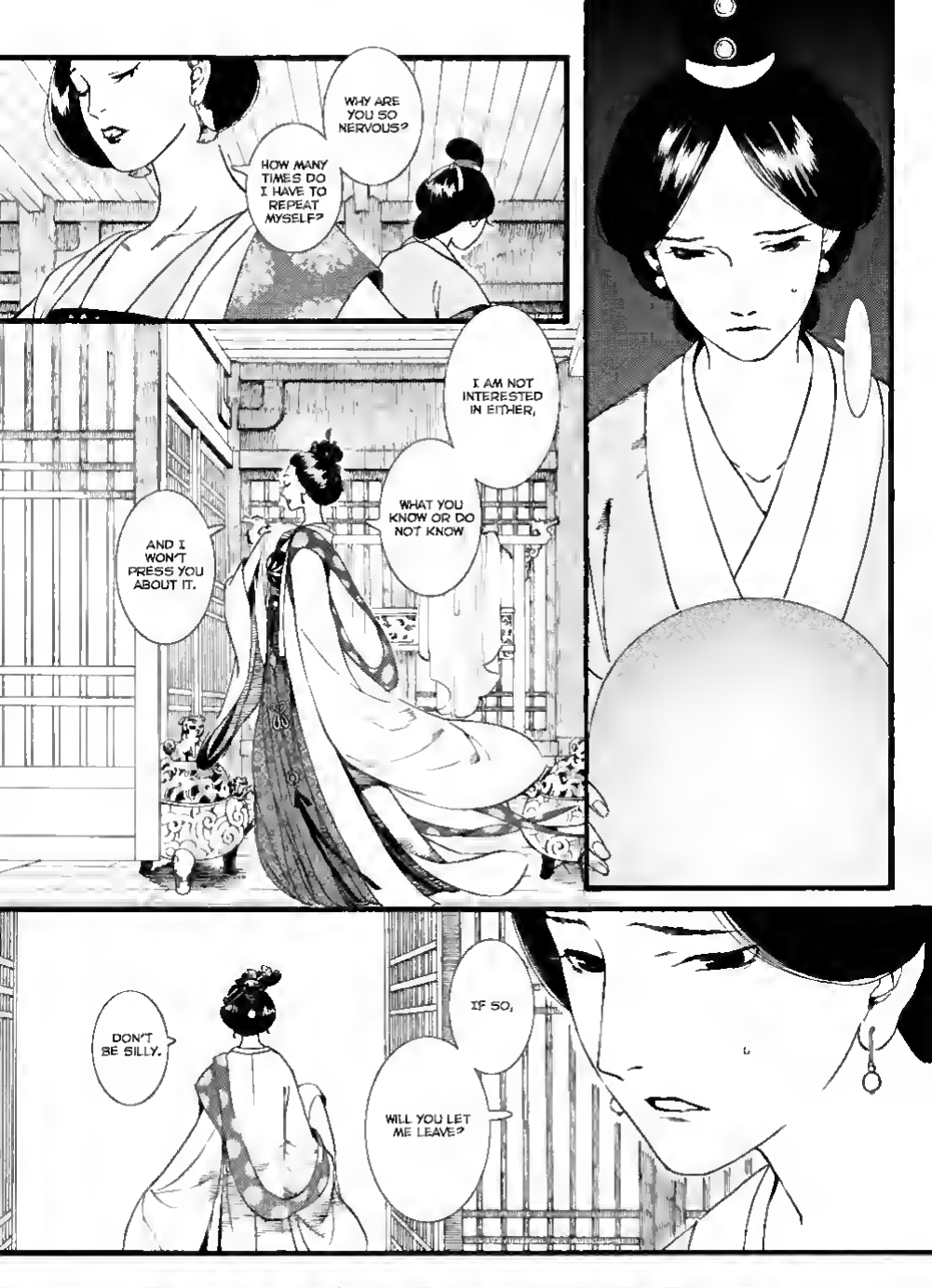
ON THE DAY OF THE INCIDENT,
ONLY MOMENTS AFTER FATHER LEFT THE PALACE, MOTHER SENT ME AWAY.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT,
MY LIFE WAS SPARED BECAUSE SHE WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION MOMENT BEFORE THE INCIDENT.
BUT IF... IF SHE HAD KNOWN WHAT WOULD HAPPEN BEFOREHAND...
WHY DIDN'T SHE INFORM FATHER?

SHE WAS THE TYPE OF PERSON. .
JUST BECAUSE SHE KICKED A SERVANT OUT, DOESN'T MEAN THAT SHE...
MASTER, PLEASE CALM DOWN
WHO WOULDN'T REBUKE SERVANTS EVEN WHEN THEY ACTED OUT OF LINE
HOW COULD SHE HAVE POSSIBLY SENT AH YUN AWAY FOR MERELY BREAKING A PLATE?
WAS SHE TRYING TO SPARE HER? OR WAS SHE SENDING A MESSAGE?
COUGH! COUGH!
COUGH!
MASTER, PLEASE FORGIVE MY USELESSNESS.
EVEN IF I HAVE TO GO TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD, I WILL FIND AH YUN FOR YOU
MASTER!
COUGH!

THERE IS A PRESCRIPTION AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BOX SENT TO US BY THE MISTRESS
Cough
IT'S NOTHING, JUST AN OLD ILLNESS OF MINE.
Cough Cough
YES.
YOU MAY SEND THE SERVANTS TO FETCH AND PREPARE THE MEDICINE
CEASE ALL EFFORTS FOR NOW
REGARDING AH YUN...
HOLD ON.

Cough...
Cough...
.....
GOOD ENOUGH
CHANG AN
CHAN CELLOR LI JING'S RESI DENCE

I'M NOT GOING OUT TODAY,
THIS WILL BE FINE
CHANCELLOR'S WIFE
ZHANG CHU CHEN
YOUR SKILLS HAVE IMPROVED.
AH YUN.


WHY ARE YOU SO NERVOUS?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF?
I AM NOT INTERESTED IN EITHER,
WHAT YOU KNOW OR DO NOT KNOW
AND I WON'T PRESS YOU ABOUT IT.
IF SO,
WILL YOU LET ME LEAVE?
DON'T BE SILLY.

BY STAYING HERE, AT LEAST YOU WILL REMAIN ALIVE.
SOMEONE IS INDEED INVESTIGATING AH YUN.
MY LADY,
SEE...?
SO MUCH FOR PEACE AND QUIET

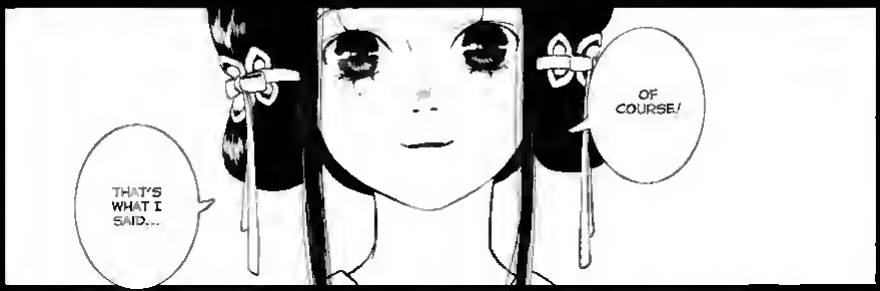
AFTERALL, IT WAS HE WHO CREATED THIS PROBLEM FOR US IN THE FIRST PLACE...
GO INFORM MY HUSBAND,
LET HIM INVITE DUKE FANG TO OUR MANOR TOMORROW.
YES
WE CAN'T JUST LET HIM OFF THAT EASILY.
Cough..
Cough..
MY LADY,
PERHAPS WE SHOULD FIND A PHYSICIAN...
NO NEED
Cough... Cough...

T/N. LIANGDI = A TITLE GIVEN TO THE WIFE OF THE CROWN PRINCE.

HOW DARE YOU MAKE SUCH IMPUDENT CLAIMS?
OUTRAGEOUS!
YOU ARE BUT A SERVANT TOO!!
TAKE HER AWAY,
AND PUNISH HER WITH TWENTY SLAPS.
ON WHOSE AUTHORITY?!
THEN TAKE HER AWAY,
AND PUNISH HER WITH FIFTY STRIKES OF THE ROD
I HAVE THE AUTHORITY, DO I NOT?
YOUR HIGHNESS?!

YOUR HIGH-NESS,
PLEASE PAY NO HEED TO THE RUBBISH THEY WERE SAYING...
AH YUN,
IS MOTHER HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH SECOND UNCLE?
I DARE NOT GOSSIP ABOUT AFFAIRS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY,
I CAN ONLY GUARANTEE ON MY LIFE
THERE ARE NO SUCH DOINGS
YOUR HIGH-NESS,

PRINCE QIN DID RESCUE LIANGDI ON THE BATTLE-FIELD,
BUT SHE HASN'T EVEN STEPPED OUT OF THE PALACE FOR A DECADE, NOR HAS SHE SEEN PRINCE QIN.
BESIDES, YOUR HIGHNESS KNOWS THEIR CHARACTER BETTER THAT ANY SERVANTS WOULD.


OF COURSE!
THAT'S WHAT I SAID...

SISTER SI SHU?
Cough
Cough, Cough
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
IF SHE KEEPS COUGHING LIKE THAT...
Cough

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
ARE WE STILL GOING TO MEET WITH THOSE OLD MEN TODAY?
I HEARD THAT THE MISS IS ILL.
THEY ARE PROBABLY PREPARING THE MEDICINE.
YES!
ILL?
Cough
Cough
IT'S NOTHING, JUST AN OLD ILLNESS RESURFACING.

AN OLD ILLNESS?
IS IT FROM THE TIME YOU WERE IN THE SUI PROVINCE?
PROBABLY.
Cough
I RARELY REGRET THINGS I HAVE DONE,
BUT THINKING BACK TO THE DAY YOU SURRENDERED TO ME,
AND HOW I PURPOSELY MADE YOU WALK BAREFOOT IN THE COLD,
I DO HARBOR SOME REGRETS.

COUSIN,
WILL YOU ACCOMPANY ME FOR A WALK?
I INTENDED TO SPEAK TO YOU OF THIS EARLIER.
MASTER QIN HAS BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY DELAYED.
WE HAVE RECEIVED NO WORD FROM HIM THUS FAR.
I HAVE ALREADY SENT XU FENG TO MAKE CONTACT.
BUT IF YOU CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER .. cough
cough, cough

I'LL OWE YOU ONE.
Cough
YOU MAY LEAVE IF YOU WISH.
...ASHINA SUN,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
MY ILLNESS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TIME I WALKED IN THE COLD.
.....
AND BY KILLING YOUR NEMESIS, YOUR WISH WOULD GO UNFULFILLED,
WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?
IF YOU HAVE A NEMESIS AND A LIFE-LONG WISH,

NATURALLY, I'D FULFILL MY WISH FIRST.
WHAT IF...
YOU SUDDENLY FOUND OUT YOUR NEMESIS AND THE ONE YOU MOST CARED FOR WERE WELL ACQUAINTED?
ORIGINALLY, I GAVE UP ON REVENGE FOR THE SAKE OF THE GREATER GOOD.
YET NOW, IT FEELS MORE LIKE I WAS TRYING TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO THEN?
WHAT DOES ANY OF THAT HAVE TO DO WITH MY WISH?
WHY SHOULD MY LIFELONG WISH,
BE AFFECTED BY SUCH PETTY MATTERS...?

YOU'RE SMARTER THAN MOST PEOPLE I KNOW,
SO WHY DO YOU ALWAYS STRUGGLE WITH THE SIMPLEST OF THINGS?
LI CHANG GE,
I FIND IT REALLY STRANGE.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
WHAT DOES ANY OF IT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?

JUST AS I THOUGHT,
YOU WERE THE RIGHT PERSON TO ASK.
THEN AGAIN,
DO YOU REALIZE HOW DIFFICULT SUCH A DILEMMA IS FOR REGULAR FOLK?
ONLY YOU,
COULD USE THE WORDS "THE SIMPLEST OF THINGS" WITH SUCH EASE!
HOW. . .
Cough cough
...HOW VEXING!
.....

AND DON'T DENY IT IF ONE DAY I COME TO YOU FOR MEN AND MONEY.
NOW, GIVE ME A SWIFT HORSE AND A MAP.
YOU SAID YOU OWED ME ONE.
I WILL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
WILL...
WILL YOU RETURN TO THE TURKS ONCE YOU FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR LINEAGE?
OF COURSE,
A TEGIN* DOES NOT JUST ABANDON HIS PEOPLE.
I...DON'T WISH TO BE YOUR ENEMY.

*T/N TITLE GIVEN TO JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE KHAN'S FAMILY

.....
THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE-LONG WISH?
YES.
THEN,
HOPEFULLY THE NEXT TIME WE MEET WON'T BE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

LI JING'S RESIDENCE
DUKE FANG,
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU PUT ALL THE CARDS ON THE TABLE.
I,
ALSO DON'T WANT YOU AS AN ENEMY.
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING WHEN YOU LEFT AH YUN "IN MY CARE"?
MADAM HONG FU, THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY.
I ONLY WISHED TO KEEP HER AS INSURANCE.

NEVER MIND, I'M NOT INTERESTED.
.....
SOMEONE WHOM YOU NEED TO GUARD SO CAREFULLY...
I'M AFRAID IT IS NOT THAT YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF IT, MORE LIKE IT'S INCONVENIENT FOR YOU TO DO SO.
SOMEONE HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING AH YUN.
A SLIPPERY ONE AT THAT, HE WAS ALREADY GONE BY THE TIME I TOOK NOTICE.
IN THE MEANTIME, I'VE SENT THE SCOUT IN CHARGE OF THIS MATTER TO YOUR MANOR.
FROM NOW ON, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US ANYMORE.
I'M MOST GRATEFUL,
FOR MADAM HONG FU'S ASSISTANCE.

PRIVATE MATTERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY...
ARE HARD TO AVOID, IT SEEMS.
MADAM IS MOST WISE
AND MINISTER LI IS MOST HONORABLE.
AHEM,
TRULY THE PROTECTOR OF THE REALM, ROLEMODEL FOR ALL AND AGES TO COME.
HARDLY.
MY HUSBAND WILL BE BACK SHORTLY, YOU CAN TELL HIM THAT YOURSELF.
SPEAK-ING OF HIM...
HE INVITED ME OVER, HOW COME HE ISN'T HERE?
HASN'T HE ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF PLAYING CHESS WITH THOSE OLD MEN FROM THE EASTERN MARKET?

I'M UNSURE HOW THE MAN CAUGHT HIS EYE, BUT HE KEEPS SAYING HE'S INTERESTING.
HE MET A YOUNG MAN FROM THE BORDER A FEW DAYS AGO
OH?
TODAY, HE WENT TO ANSWER THE CHALLENGE AGAIN.
THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH YOUNG MASTER'S TRIP HAVE BEEN MADE,
DOES MY LADY WISH TO CHECK?
TO CATCH MASTER LI'S INTEREST,
THAT ITSELF IS PRETTY INTERESTING
MY LADY!
Cough cough
I'LL TAKE A LOOK

SAYING IT MUST BE DELIVERED TO YOU PERSONALLY!
MASTER XU FENG SENT THIS URGENT MESSAGE BY HORSE,
YES,
THEY WERE ATTACKED.
YES.
LEAVE US
SHI BA.
PREPARE THREE CARRIAGES,
AND ACCOMPANY ME OUTSIDE THE CITY WHERE WE WILL RECEIVE MASTER QIN. HURRY!
MASTER QIN HAS ARRIVED?
cough

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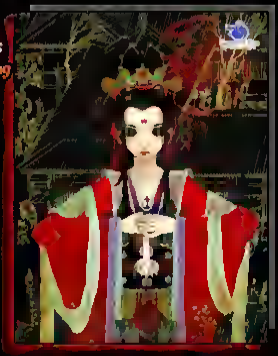

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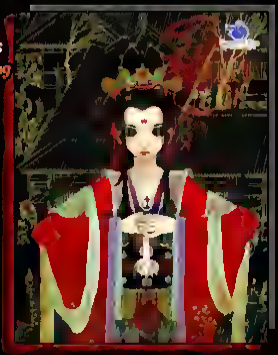

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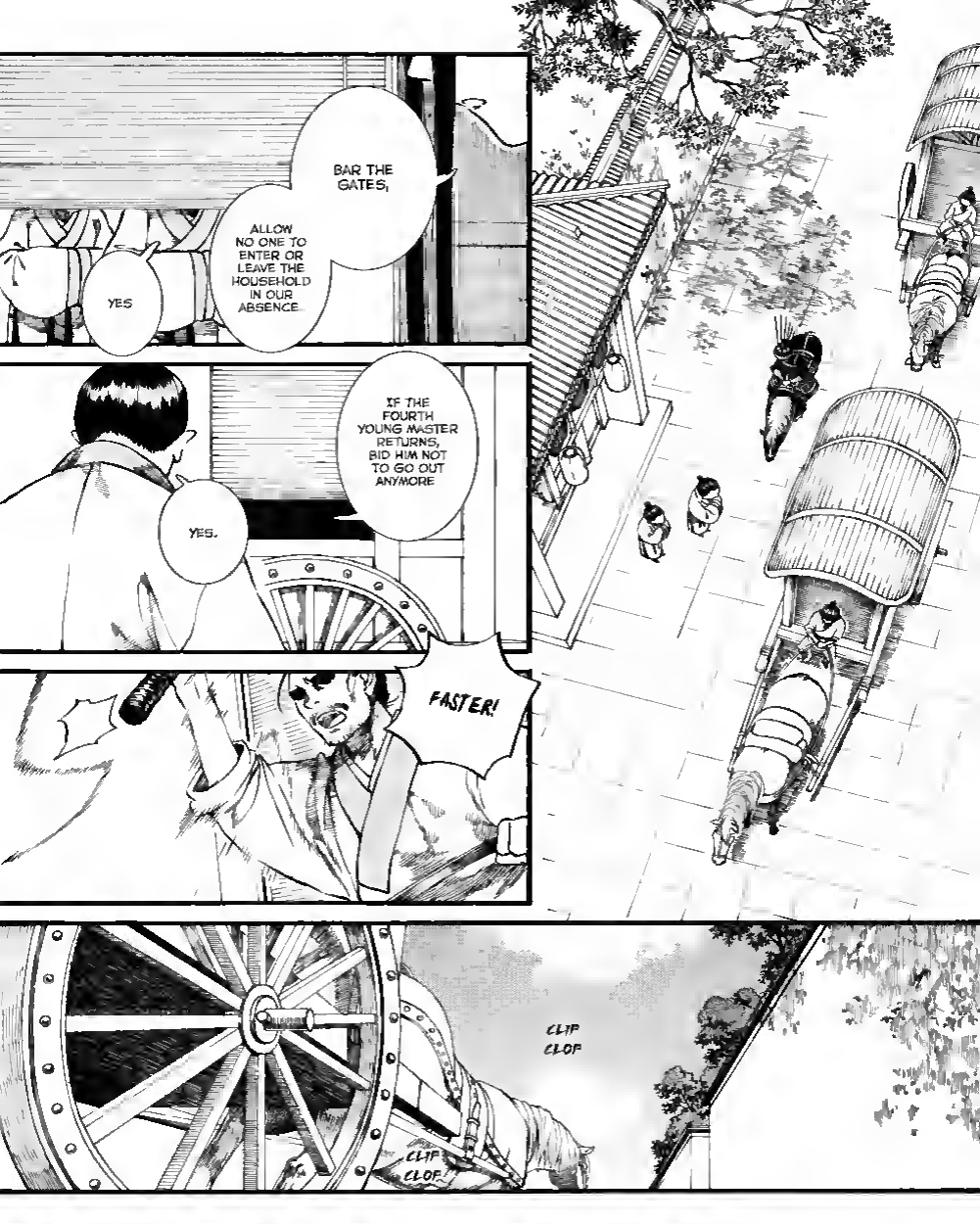
SONG OF THE LONG MARCH

<CHAPTER 39>

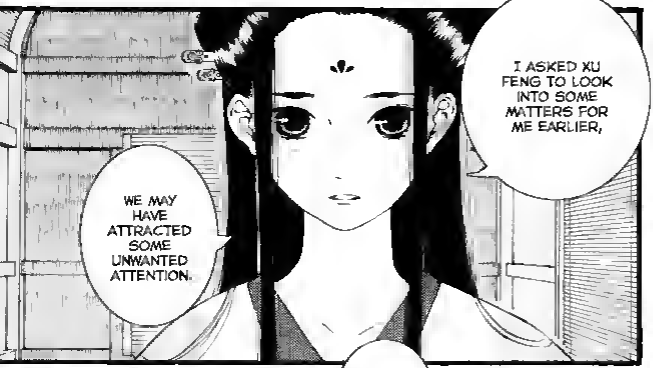
PART-1

AUTHOR: XIA DA


BAR THE GATES,
ALLOW NO ONE TO ENTER OR LEAVE THE HOUSEHOLD IN OUR ABSENCE.
YES
IF THE FOURTH YOUNG MASTER RETURNS, BID HIM NOT TO GO OUT ANYMORE
YES.
FASTER!
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP

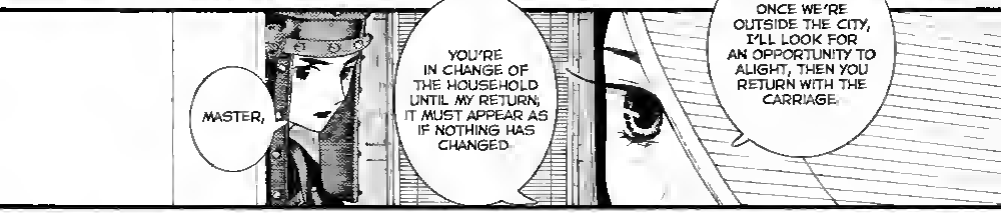
I HEAR THAT SOME HOUSEHOLD AROUND HERE IS LOOKING FOR A FEMALE TUTOR,
HENCE THE RUSH AND MY INQUIRY
OUR HOUSEHOLD DOESN'T NEED ONE
REALLY
THEN I'M SORRY TO HAVE DISTURBED YOU
EVEN FASTER!
EH?
YES!
DRIVER!
GTODYDYN!
SHI BA.

TIE YOUR HORSE TO THE CARRIAGE,
AND COME SIT INSIDE.
MASTER?


WE MAY HAVE ATTRACTED SOME UNWANTED ATTENTION.
I ASKED XU FENG TO LOOK INTO SOME MATTERS FOR ME EARLIER,

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

LISTEN TO ME.
NO, PUT THAT DOWN.


MASTER,
YOU'RE IN CHANGE OF THE HOUSEHOLD UNTIL MY RETURN, IT MUST APPEAR AS IF NOTHING HAS CHANGED.
ONCE WE'RE OUTSIDE THE CITY, I'LL LOOK FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO ALIGHT, THEN YOU RETURN WITH THE CARRIAGE.

SHOULD WE KEEP THE GATE BARRED UNTIL YOUR RETURN?
NO NEED.
WHAT WE DO IS USUALLY KEPT SECRET UNBEKNOWNST TO THE SERVANTS.
THEIR IGNORANCE WILL BE OUR BEST DISGUISE.
AS FOR THE FORTH YOUNG MASTER... GIVE HIM THE FASTEST HORSE AND TELL HIM TO LEAVE CHANG AN IMMEDIATELY.
ALSO, CONVEY MY FAREWELLS TO HIM
YES!
CHANG AN
WESTERN MARKET
COME COME, IF YOU CAN BREAK THROUGH MY LINE OF DEFENCE TODAY,
THIS BELT AND THIS SACK OF COINS ARE YOURS.

AND IF YOU CAN BREACH THE MAIN ENCAMP-MENT,
I'LL EVEN TREAT YOU TO A MEAL
SADLY NOT,
TODAY I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE
OH?

OH...
SO I CAME TO SAY GOODBYE
BUT SINCE WE AGREED TO MEET, I DIDN'T WANT TO KEEP YOU WAITING,
SOMETHING URGENT CAME UP I'M LEAVING CHANG AN TODAY
LAD,
YOU'VE LED SOLDIERS INTO BATTLE BEFORE?
!!!
COMPLETELY CLUELESS REGARDING THE THEORIES, YET IMPECCABLE WAS YOUR INSTINCT.
YOUR MASTERY IN THE ARTS OF WARFARE IS OBVIOUS.
AT WHAT AGE DID YOU FIRST GO INTO BATTLE? HMM?

HAHA!
HA,
BUT I STILL CAN'T BEAT YOU
LAD,
WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH WHATEVER IT IS YOU ARE RUSHING OFF TO,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAD AN ARMY UNDER MY COMMAND?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR PAST OR YOUR BIRTH,
SINCE YOU'VE CHOSEN TO BE A CITIZEN OF TANG, I AM WILLING TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE
...

LI JING.
GREAT TANG'S MINISTER OF WAR
OLD MAN,
WHO ARE YOU?
I'VE HEARD OF YOU,
YOU'RE THE HAN'S MILITARY GENIUS!
OVER THESE PAST FEW DAYS,
YOU'VE ALREADY LEARNED SEVERAL OF MY BATTLE FORMATIONS IN SECRET
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN SOME MORE UNDER MY FORMAL TEACHING?

MY APOLOGIES,
I WOULD LIKE TO,
BUT I CANNOT.
THAT'S UNFORTU-NATE

I STILL HAVE TO KEEP YOU HERE IN TANG

I STILL HAVE TO KEEP YOU HERE IN TANG.

WHY DON'T YOU TIE THE HORSE TO THE POST,
AND COME WAIT INSIDE
NO NEED, THE FOURTH YOUNG MASTER TOLD ME HE WOULDN'T BE LONG

I'LL BE FINE, MR. WAITER. FEEL FREE TO TEND TO THE OTHER CUSTOMERS.
YOU'RE WAY TOO NAIVE.
DIDN'T HE STAY FOR SEVERAL HOURS LAST TIME?

YOUNG MAN,

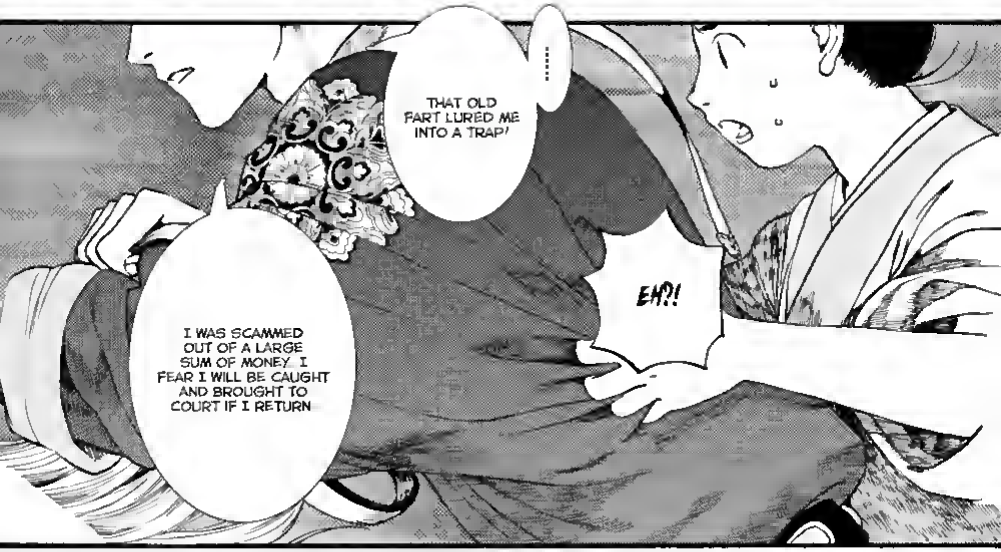
YOU WERE CLEARLY ABOUT TO LOSE
REALLY, DRIVING PEOPLE OUT WITHOUT A WORD OF EXPLANATION?
ELDERS, WHAT IS THE MATTER?
THEY'RE DRIVING EVERYONE OUT UPSTAIRS.
FORGET IT, LET'S GO BACK
THUMP
THEY STARTED TO FIGHT EACH OTHER!
FOURTH YOUNG MASTER?!
CLANG
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
SHIT, HURRY LET'S GO!

CRACK
CRASH
!
FOURTH
...

FOURTH YOUNG MASTER !!!
HOHIRNH
AAA AH!

SIGH...
ISN'T THIS EMBARASSING?
I'M ASHAMED OF MY FAILURE
NEVER MIND.
THAT LAD SURE HAS NO SHORTAGE OF BRUTE STRENGTH.
EVEN PANG ER MIGHT FAIL TO CATCH HIM.
SINCE HE SAID HE WOULD BE LEAVING CHANG AN TODAY, IT MUST BE TRUE.
ASSIGN SOME MEN TO GUARD THE FOUR CITY GATES.
YES!

EXERCISE CAUTION, DO NOT ALERT THE IMPERIAL GUARDS
AND AVOID TAKING HIS LIFE.
YES!
CLIP
CLOP
CLANG
STOP YOU BRAT!
FOURTH YOUNG MASTER,
YOU, YOU THIS IS...?
I DARE YOU TO STAND YOUR GROUND AND FACE ME!
AAH!


I WAS SCAMMED OUT OF A LARGE SUM OF MONEY. I FEAR I WILL BE CAUGHT AND BROUGHT TO COURT IF I RETURN
EH?!
THAT OLD FART LURED ME INTO A TRAP!
.....

YES! I UNDER-STAND!
IF YOU LET SOMEONE FOLLOW YOU BACK TO THE HOUSE, THAT ANGRY BROAD SERVING THE YOUNG MISTRESS MIGHT...
BUT... BUT...
ALSO, YOU BETTER ACT SMART WHEN YOU RETURN.

AND TELL HER TO SPEAK WELL OF ME IN FRONT OF THE ELDERS
LET THE YOUNG MISTRESS KNOW I'M GOING BACK TO THE NORTH,

VERY GOOD
WHERE DID THAT RASCAL COME FROM!
AW, MY BACK.
OUCH!
WUA-AH!
BASTARD! QUICK, GET HIM!
LITTLE,
LITTLE...

IT'S BEEN AWHILE, YA LUO.
PLEASE DON'T GET UP ON MY ACCOUNT.
LITTLE STRATEGIST?!
IT'S MERELY A FLESH WOUND.
IF WE CAN'T ENTER THE CITY, RESTING HERE TO RECUPERATE WOULD BE FINE AS WELL.
THEN PLEASE STAY HERE FOR A FEW MORE DAYS.
.....
I WILL BE OUTSIDE DISCUSSING SOMETHING WITH MR QIN.
PLEASE GET SOME REST.

T/N TITLE GIVEN TO THE FAMILY MEMBER OF KHAN

FORTUNATELY, THE RE-ALLOCATION OF THE MERCHANT ROUTE HAS BEEN PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY.
OUR BASE OF OPERATIONS IN THE WESTERN REGION HAS BEEN SET UP.

LUCKILY, WE ARRIVED IN TIME.
OTHERWISE, THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE MADE IT OUT.
THOSE WHO ATTACKED US WERE TURKS
AS FOR THEIR ALLEGIANCE FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS REQUIRED.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
MR. QIN, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS BOW FROM ME.
UP TO THIS POINT, IT HAS ONLY BEEN THROUGH YOUR HARD WORK, STRENGTH AND WISDOM THAT WE'VE MANAGED TO AMASS SUCH A LARGE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES.
I HELD THE POSITION OF THE MASTER, YET FULFILLED NONE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. INSTEAD, I ONLY MADE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT FOR EVERYONE.
I AM DEEPLY ASHAMED.
MASTER IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?
THE TEMPLE MISTRESS HAS TOLD ME OF YOUR REASONS.
THE PERPLEXITY OF "PATH" IS ONE THAT NOT EVEN THE GREAT SAGES COULD AVOID.
YOUNG MASTER HAS ATTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE. WHAT SHAME IS THERE IN THAT?
AFTER THIS...

BRING PROSPERITY TO TANG

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO DIVIDE YAN HANG MEN'S ASSETS INTO FOUR EQUAL PORTIONS.
MR QIN YOU AND WAN NIANG ARE EACH TO RECEIVE ONE AND THE SOLDIERS ORIGINALLY UNDER LORD GONG SUN'S COMMAND ARE TO RECEIVE ONE AS WELL.
EVERYONE FOLLOWED ME FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, BUT THE PATH I TAKE FROM THIS MOMENT FORTH MAY NOT BE TO ALL OF THEIR LIKING.
I FEEL GUILTY AFTER WHAT EVERYONE HAS DONE FOR ME... IF ANYONE WISHES TO STRIKE OUT ON THEIR OWN, I WON'T OBJECT.

MASTER,
YOU WISH TO ..?

YOUNG MASTER,
WILL YOU TELL ME YOUR REASONS?
BACK WHEN I WAS IN SHUO PROVINCE...
LORD GONG SUN ONCE ASKED ME... IF I KNEW WHY HE HAD TO HOLD SHUO PROVINCE.
I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD YET I WAS OFTEN PUZZLED...
SINCE THEN...
I HAVE TRAVELLED THOUSANDS OF MILES, BEARING WITNESS TO COUNTLESS TRAGEDIES.
IT TURNED OUT... THAT THE WORLD IS A CRUEL PLACE...
EVEN IF I CAN SAVE ONE MAN, I CAN'T SAVE A WHOLE CITY. EVEN IF I CAN PUT AN END TO ONE MAN, I CAN'T PUT AN END TO THIS ERA OF TURMOIL...

I NO LONGER WISH TO LIVE IN THE NAME OF VENGEANCE.
MR. QIN.
THOUGH I HAVE NEITHER LORD GONG SUN'S SELFLESSNESS NOR HIS FEARLESSNESS.
ONLY NOW DO I REALIZE... THE PATH LORD GONG SUN TOOK WAS THE HARDEST OF THEM ALL.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE MY COUNTRY AS WELL.
I HAVE ALREADY LOST MY HOME.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG
.....
MY TEACHER ONCE FORE-TOLD
HAN LIGHILLS
GIFTED WITH TALENT, IF HE MEETS EMPEROR GAOZU* OF HAN HE BECOMES ZHANG ZIFANG * IF HE FOLLOWS THE TYRANT EMPEROR* OF QIN, HE BECOMES LI TONGGU."
I WAS YOUNG AND SPIRITED AT THE TIME. I REFUSED TO ACCEPT AND RETORTED, "WHY CAN'T I BECOME A JUST RULER?"
T/N *REFER TO THE END OF THE CHAPTER FOR MORE DETAILS
HE ONLY GAVE ME FOUR WORDS:
"SKILLS" APLENTY, "VIRTUES" NONE.
YOUNG MASTER
IT IS I WHO HAS TO THANK YOU...
THE ENIGMA THAT HAD ME BEWILDERED FOR OVER FOUR DECADES...
HAS FINALLY BEEN SOLVED

MR. QIN...
MY PORTION OF THE ASSETS I ENTRUST TO YOU.
WAN NIANG IS STILL YOUNG AND IS UNDER MY CARE. I WILL GIVE HER HER SHARE WHEN SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.
HOW-EVER...
TEACHER!
YOUR GREATEST PROBLEM...
IS NOT THE TWO OF US, I'M AFRAID.
TEACHER! IS THAT YOU?

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SONG OF THE LONG MARCH

Author /Artist Xia Da 夏达
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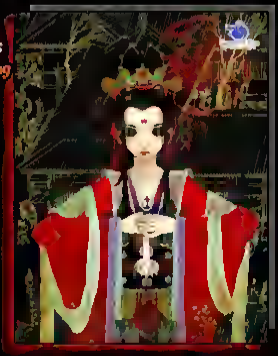

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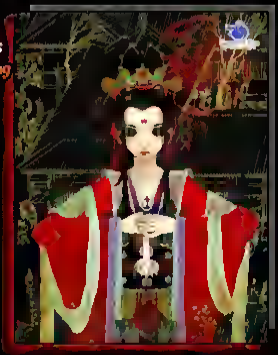

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Translator Notes:

Emperor Gaozu of Han (Personal Name *Liu Bang*) (247-190 BC) was known for his great virtues.

Zhang ZiFang (Personal Name *Zhang Liang*) was a strategist and statesman who served under Liu Bang. He was also known as one of the three heroes of the early Han dynasty.

Tyrant Emperor of Qin (Personal name *Zheng*) (260-210 BC) The first emperor, was notorious for his killing of recalcitrant scholars and burning of great literatures.

Li TongGu (Personal name *Li Si*) was the most influential prime minister of Qin. He was central to Qin's political reforms and military conquests.

-Sharogy

@夏达
weibo.com/april44

SONG OF THE LONG MARCH

< CHAPTER 40 >

PART - I

AUTHOR: XIA DA

TEACHER!
WOAH,
LIKE THIS YOU REALLY DO LOOK LIKE A GIRL!
HEHE. THAT DISGUISE IS AMAZING.

YOUNG MASTER.
TEACHER, IF YOU DON'T PUT IN MORE EFFORT INTO GROWING TALLER,
I'M GOING TO OVERTAKE YOU.
YOU'VE INDEED GROWN.
YOU EVEN BECAME QUITE A CAPABLE LITTLE LEADER IN YOUR OWN RIGHT.
TEACHER ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
.....
WERE YOU ACTUALLY PRAISING [illegible]?
AH DOU, XU FENG.

I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU.
LET'S GO INSIDE.
CHANG AN
OUR MEN TASKED WITH COVERING THE OTHER GATES HAVE SENT WORD.
NONE OF THEM HAVE SPOTTED ANY TALL WELL BUILT MAN AROUND THE AGE OF TWENTY WITH PIERCING BLUE EYES.
GENERAL, PERHAPS...
.....

WE WAIT.
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT BASTARD CAN CHANGE HIS EYEBALLS!
YES!
BUT, GENERAL, WHY DIDN'T THEY SEND THE SCOUTING DIVISION TO DEAL WITH THIS KIND OF TASK?
IT'S JUST...
WHAT?
WHAT? ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I AM UNFIT FOR THIS KIND OF TASK?
NO, NO! I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.
JUST THAT... GENERAL,

EH? REALLY?
YOU AND OUR MEN RODE WITH SUCH SWIFTNESS AND TENACITY. THAT I FEAR WE MAY HAVE ATTRACTED SOME ATTENTION FROM THE IMPERIAL GUARDS.
BOSS, THOSE GUYS OVER THERE LOOK LIKE THEY'RE FROM THE CAVALRY DIVISION...
SHUT UP! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
AND PUT YOUR HAND DOWN!
.....
I'M SORRY FOR THE WAIT,
TOP QUALITY XI SHI QIANG IS HERE!

YOU'RE BEING TOO MODEST.
IF I HADN'T KEPT YOU LATE CHATTING, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED THE CITY'S CLOSING.
HOW CAN I ALLOW BROTHER ZHANG ER TO SPEND SO MUCH ON MY BEHALF?
XI SHI QIANG IS OUR ESTABLISHMENT'S SIGNATURE WINE.
PLEASE ENJOY
COME, HOW ABOUT WE GIVE THIS FAMOUS WINE FROM CHANG AN A TRY?
I EVEN BOUGHT A WAGONLOAD OF IT, HOPING TO WHOLESALE THEM WHEN I GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE.
SIGH. I SHOULD HAVE SOLD FRUITS LIKE YOU DID.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO MY WIFE ...
I BROUGHT A WHOLE WAGON OF PICKLED VEGETABLES FROM HOME, AND NOW I HAVE TO DRAG IT A BACK THE SAME WAY I CAME.
TCH,
WHAT'S THE POINT OF BRINGING THAT UP NOW? DRINK, DRINK!
.....
SIGH, VERY WELL. I WILL EMPTY THE FIRST CUP!

WAITER, BILL!
COMING!
AND I NEED A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU.
FLAP FLAP
FLAP FLAP
TEACHER,

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YES.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DECIDE.
I WON'T OBJECT.

I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.
I'M AN ORPHAN.
IT WAS MASTER GONGSUN WHO TOOK US IN AND TAUGHT US ALL WE KNOW.
EVEN THOUGH I WISH TO AVENGE HIM...
BUT, YOUNG MASTER, RIGHT NOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS INHERITED AND CARRIED OUT LORD GONGSUN'S WILL.
ALL THIS TALK OF GREAT CAUSES...

IN THE END,
IT ALL BOILS DOWN TO THE FACT THAT YOUR SURNAME IS LI!
AH DOU!
SLAM
GET BACK HERE!
LET HIM GO

YOUNG MASTER
MR QIN,
PLEASE PREPARE AH DOU'S PORTION.
AND LET A COUPLE CAPABLE FIGHTERS GO WITH HIM...
YOUNG MASTER
IF HE DOESN'T WANT THEM TO FOLLOW...
THEN LET HIM BE.
I'M FINE.
XU FENG, GET ME THE MAP OF THE WESTERN REGIONS
...YES.
BOSS,
WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!

THE YOUNG CHIEF AH DOU TOOK YUAN NIANG WITH HIM AND LEFT!

THE YOUNG CHIEF AH DOU TOOK YUAN NIANG WITH HIM AND LEFT!
BROTHER DOU.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
.....
YUAN'ER... DO YOU MISS YOUR MOM AND DAD?
I DO.
BROTHER DOU
ARE YOU CRYING?

.....
LET'S GO.
WHAT IS REVENGE?
OKAY.
WE'LL SEEK REVENGE ON OUR OWN!
AH DOU!

STOP MESSING AROUND!
COME BACK HERE!
COME OVER HERE.
YUAN'ER,
OKAY.
XU FENG! ELDER QIN!

YUAN'ER!
DO YOU WISH TO GO WITH THEM OR DO YOU WISH TO COME WITH ME?
AH DOU,
I WON'T STOP YOU. IN FACT, I HAVE ALREADY PUT ASIDE YOUR PORTION OF YAN HANG MEN'S FUNDS.
YOU CAN TAKE THEM BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

BUT YUAN'ER IS STILL YOUNG, YOU CANNOT TAKE HER WITH YOU.
WHY NOT?
YUAN'ER, WHO DO YOU WISH TO FOLLOW?
.....
I WANT TO PLAY WITH BIG BROTHER

BUT MOM SAID...
WHEN SHE AND DADDY ARE NOT AROUND, YUAN'ER MUST LISTEN TO ELDER QIN
YUAN'ER, COME.
ELDER QIN.
YOU ARE NOT MY TEACHER...

MY TEACHER IS A HERO WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES AND KNOWS WHO HIS ENEMIES ARE.
NOT A DECEITFUL COWARD! LIAR.
AH DOU!
BESIDES... HE WASN'T WRONG.
IF THIS WAS A HALF YEAR AGO
...WOULD MY WORDS HAVE BEEN ANY DIFFERENT?
MASTER!
HE HAS THE RIGHT TO MAKE HIS OWN CHOICES

I SAY, MISTER...
THREE!
ONE, TWO...
I'VE NOTICED THAT AS WELL SOMEHOW, THEY'RE HEAVIER THAN I REMEMBERED.
WHY ARE YOUR PICKLED VEGATABLES SO HEAVY?
THIS... THIS IS...
IT DIDN'T SPOIL, DID IT? DID WATER GET IN?
PICKLED VEGETABLES MARINATED IN WINE?
IS SOMEONE PLAYING A TRICK ON ME?
BUT...NO... IT CAN'T BE! WINE IS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN PICKLED VEGETABLES!

WHAT A UNIQUE FRAGRANCE.
MISTER, CAN I HAVE SOME?
I'LL GO GET THE CHOPSTICKS!
DELICIOUS! MISTER, YOUR PICKLED VEGETABLES, WE WANT THEM ALL!
IS THE RECIPE FOR SALE?
EH?
OKAY,
WINE MERCHANT, YOU MAY PASS.
ALL RIGHT, THANKS, OFFICER!
NEXT!

GENERAL,
PLEASE HAVE SOME TEA FOR REFRESHMENT.
ALL RIGHT.
AH CHEN HAS ALREADY LEFT IN SEARCH FOR WINE..
KNOWING THE GENERAL DOESN'T LIKE TEA,
DISGUST-ING
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK

DRIVER, STEADIER PLEASE.
NGH.
EH? YES!
YES, IT'S XI SHI QIANG.
YOU WISH TO BUY SOME?
DID YOU BRING ANYTHING TO HOLD THE WINE?
YEAH, JUST POUR IT INTO THIS WATER SKIN HERE.

I'VE ONLY JUST LEFT THE CITY AND ALREADY THERE ARE BUYERS LINED UP...
CHANG AN'S FAMOUS WINE SURE LIVES UP TO ITS REPUTATION
CRAAACK
WOO-AA-AH!
YES.
IGNORE THEM, PROCEED DIRECTLY INTO THE CITY
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THUMP
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS HAVING A BRAWL OUTSIDE THE CITY GATES.

NEIIIIIGH
BASTARD!!!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!!!

CRAAACK
CRASH
HELP!!
CRACK
MURDER!!!

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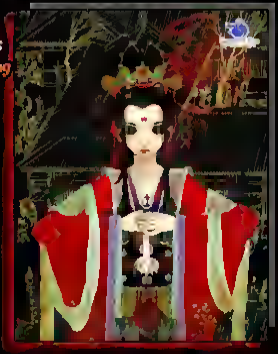

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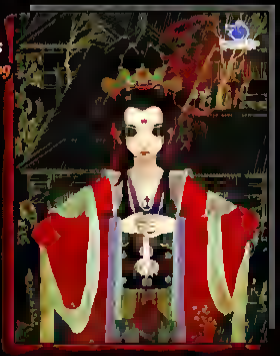

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SONG OF THE LONG MARCH

< CHAPTER 41 >

AUTHOR: XIA DA

!
CRASH
YOUNG...
CRAP.
AH,
HEY,

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YOU..
WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO THIS TIME?
DASH DASH DASH DASH
YUAN NIANG!
SIXTH MISTRESS!

WE'RE TRYING TO CATCH A THIEF.
WE'LL PAY FOR THE DAMAGE.
MY APOLOGIES, YOUNG MAN.
!
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PAY IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO OUR LADIES?
PAY?!
STEP BACK, ALL OF YOU.
SOB
HELP!
!

STEP BACK!
HUH?
SOB...
WAAAA...
LEAVE THE HORSE,
AND BACK AWAY!

YOU CALL YOURSELF A MAN?!!
BASTARD!
I'LL SKIN YOU ALIVE!
DON'T YOU PUT OUR MISTRESS IN HARM'S WAY!
NO, DON'T...
PUT THAT LADY DOWN!
BRING ME MY BOW!
SOB...
BASTARD, DON'T RUN!
GEN... I MEAN, BOSS! PLEASE CALM DOWN!
HURRY! AFTER HIM!
YES!

ARE YOU HURT?
HOW DID YOU GET TANGLED UP WITH LI JING?!
EH? HOW DO YOU KNOW IT WAS LI JING?
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR OWN SITUATION!
THE CALVARY DIVISION IS UNDER LI JING'S DIRECT COMMAND, AND THIS HORSE HAS THEIR CREST BRANDED ON ITS HIP

HOW ABOUT YOU START BY TELLING ME WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING THESE PAST FEW DAYS?
INDEED, THIS IS A FINE HORSE!
.....
MR. QIN...
GO WITH THEM,
SLOW THEM DOWN,
AND DETERMINE THEIR PURPOSE
YES
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED. . YOU SURE WERE LUCKY!

.....
CLOP
CLOP
IF HE KNEW WHO YOU REALLY ARE,
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT OUT OF THE CITY IN ONE PIECE!
THE SAME GOES FOR YOU
OH RIGHT, YA LUO CAME WITH AH ER TAI TO FIND YOU.
AROUND TEN LI'S* TO THE EAST, YOU WILL FIND A STORE BELONGING TO THE ZHAO FAMILY.
ASK THEM FOR THE WHEREABOUTS OF A NEWLY ARRIVED QIN FAMILY, AND THAT'S WHERE THEY WILL BE.
T/N: LI - ANCIENT CHINESE METRIC SYSTEM. DURING THE TANG ERA ONE LI IS ROUGHLY 370 I 990 METERS
BEFORE THAT, REMEMBER TO RELEASE THE HORSE AND CHANGE YOUR CLOTHING.
YOU CAN PUT ME DOWN NOW, JUST DON'T LET THEM CATCH UP TO YOU.

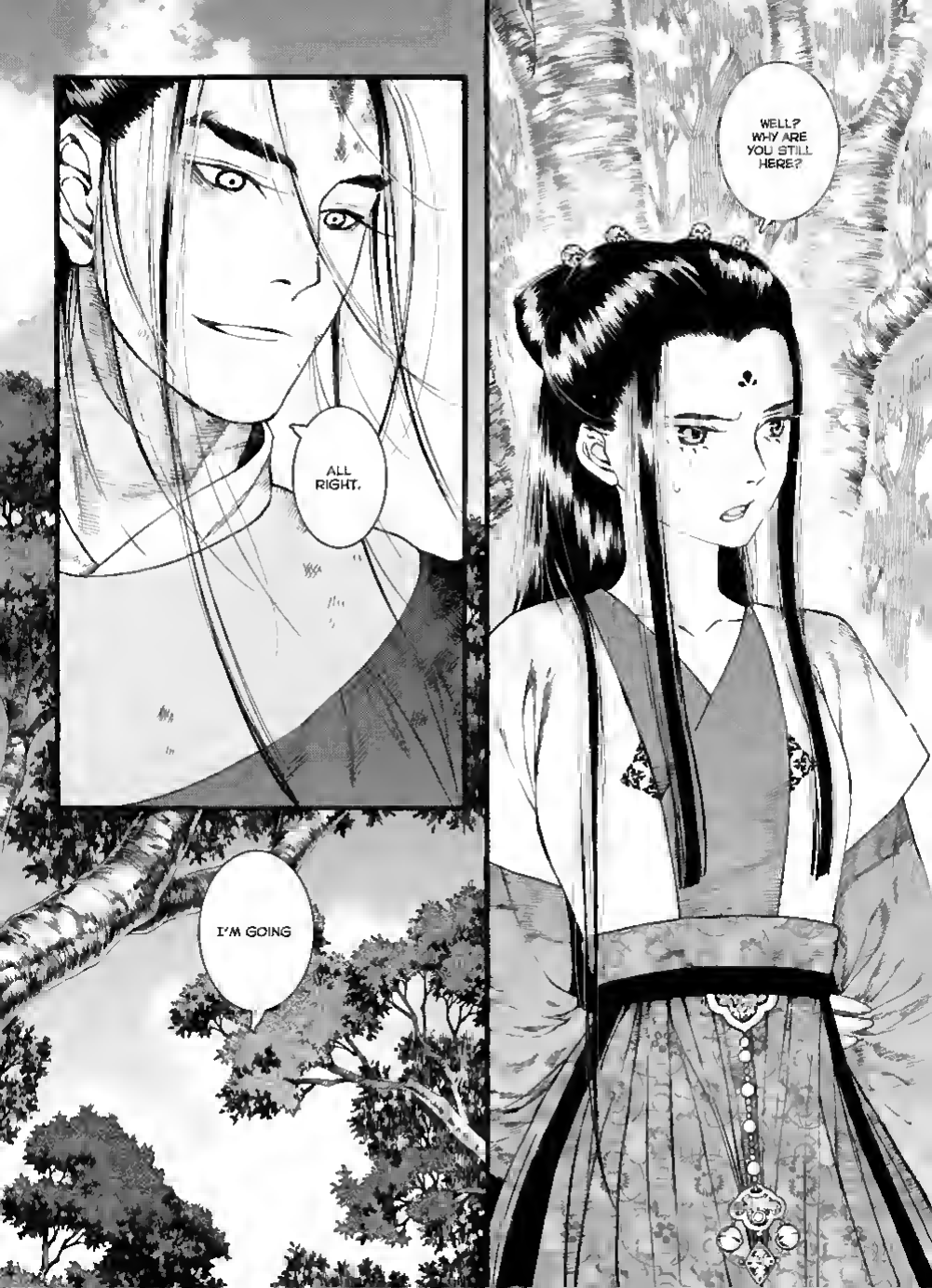
FARE-WELL
THE SKY IS HIGH AND THE ROAD IS LONG
MAY WE MEET AGAIN
CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLOP
CLIP
CLOP
CLIP

WHY DID YOU COME BACK?!
ANSWER ME HONESTLY,
DO YOU THINK LI JING'S CAVALRY IS INCOMPETENT?
IF THE DAY COMES YOU CAN REMAIN HERE NO LONGER,
WILL YOU COME JOIN ME?

IF YOU ARE UNWILLING,
THEN I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.
BUT IF YOU ARE UNABLE, THEN STOP GRUMBLING.
JUST LEAVE THE REST TO ME.

YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! WHY WOULD I NEED YOU TO SAVE ME?
STOP WASTING TIME AND GO!
ANSWER ME
IT IS JUST A WORD.
.....

ALL RIGHT


WELL? WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?
ALL RIGHT.
I'M GOING

CLIP
CLOP
CLIP
CLOP
CLIP
CLOP

CLIP CLOP
CLIP CLIP
.....

I HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED WHO YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE!
THIS IS A MATTER OF OUR LADY'S REPUTATION.
IF WORD OF THIS GETS OUT, I'LL HOLD YOU PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE!
YES,
MY APOLOGIES!
ASK QUESTIONS?
WHAT IS THERE TO ASK?

秦
SHE SURE LOOKS ADORABLE!
SO WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT FOR? DON'T YOU HAVE A THIEF TO CATCH?
YES, OF COURSE.
SHH, KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.
HOW MANY OLDER SIBLINGS DOES SHE HAVE?
ARE YOU GOING TO BE THE ONE EXPLAINING IT TO MISTRESS SHIBA?
VERY WELL.
THE SIXTH MISTRESS IS IN A MEETING RIGHT NOW.
IF YOU WAKE YUAN NIANG UP AND SHE STARTS CRYING...

MAKE THE PREPARATIONS
WE'RE LEAVING TOMORROW
MR QIN AND LUO SHIBA SHALL REMAIN BY MY SIDE,
I'LL HAVE TO ASK THE TWO OF YOU, ONCE AGAIN, TO LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH OURSELVES IN FOREIGN LANDS
XU FENG WILL STAY HERE,
MAINTAINING OUR COVER AND CONTINUING TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE.
YES.
FURTHERMORE, THIS MANOR IS OUR LAST OUTPOST IN THE CENTRAL PLAIN
UNTIL WE MANAGE TO ESTABLISH A FIRM FOOTHOLD, YUAN NIANG WILL HAVE TO REMAIN HERE TOO
HER EDUCATION AND WELL-BEING ARE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE
XU FENG, I'LL HAVE TO ADD THAT TO YOUR BURDENS
IT'S PART OF MY JOB

MASTER,
IF AH DOU HAPPENS TO COME BACK...
.....
NEVER MIND
IS THIS YOUR FINAL DECISION?
I'LL GO WHEREVER YOU GO!
TEGIN,
SAY NO MORE.

ARE YOU CERTAIN?
WE'RE NOT GOING INTO BATTLE THIS TIME, EVEN I DO NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF DANGER AWAITS US.
I AM OBLIGATED TO TAKE AH'ER TAI WITH ME, BUT YOU...
TAKE ME! TAKE ME!
I'LL DO ANYTHING!
.....
LET'S GO THEN.
BUT... TEGIN,
NO MATTER WHAT BLOOD FLOWS IN YOUR VEINS, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE OUR TEGIN.
IS KNOWING WHERE YOU CAME FROM REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

Western Turkic Khaganate
Uyghur
Eastern Turkic Khaganate
Khitan
YES.
RIDDLED WITH ENDLESS TURMOIL WITHIN,
SURROUNDED BY POWERFUL ADVERSARIES OUTSIDE
GIVEN LI SHI MIN'S ABILITIES
GIVE HIM ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO AND HE SHOULD HAVE HIS HOUSE IN ORDER
IN THE MEANTIME...
HOW CAN WE LET THE TURKIC RULE GO UNCHALLENGED?

OF COURSE.
ANY MAN WHO STANDS BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH,
LET'S GO
TOWARDS WEST
HAS TO AT LEAST KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM.
TOWARDS EAST.

WE'RE GOING TO KHITAN.

WE'RE GOING TO UYGHUR.

SONG OF THE LONG MARCH

Author /Artist Xia Da 夏达
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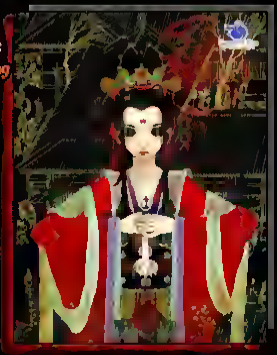

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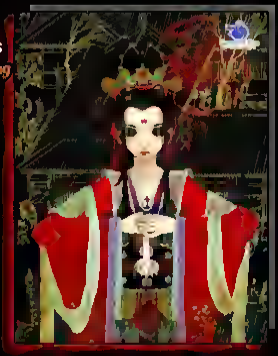

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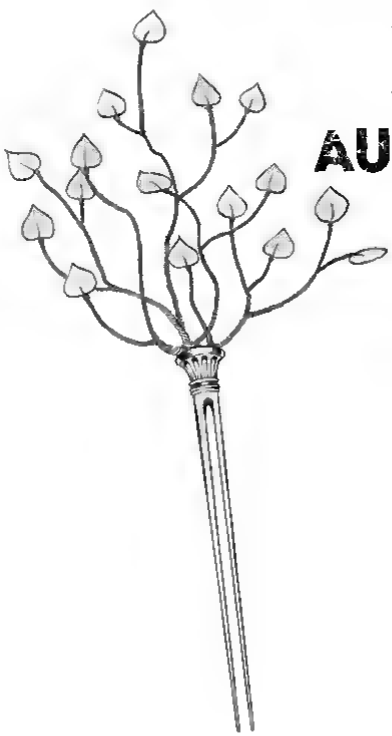
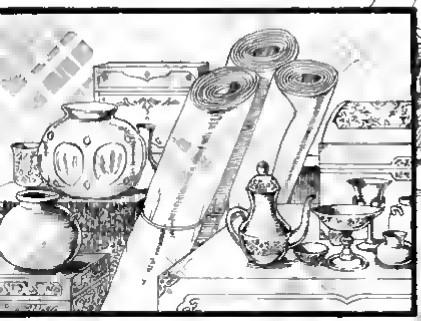
SONG OF THE LONG MARCH

< CHAPTER 42 >

PART - I

AUTHOR: XIA DA





North West
Region

XueYanTuo
Territory

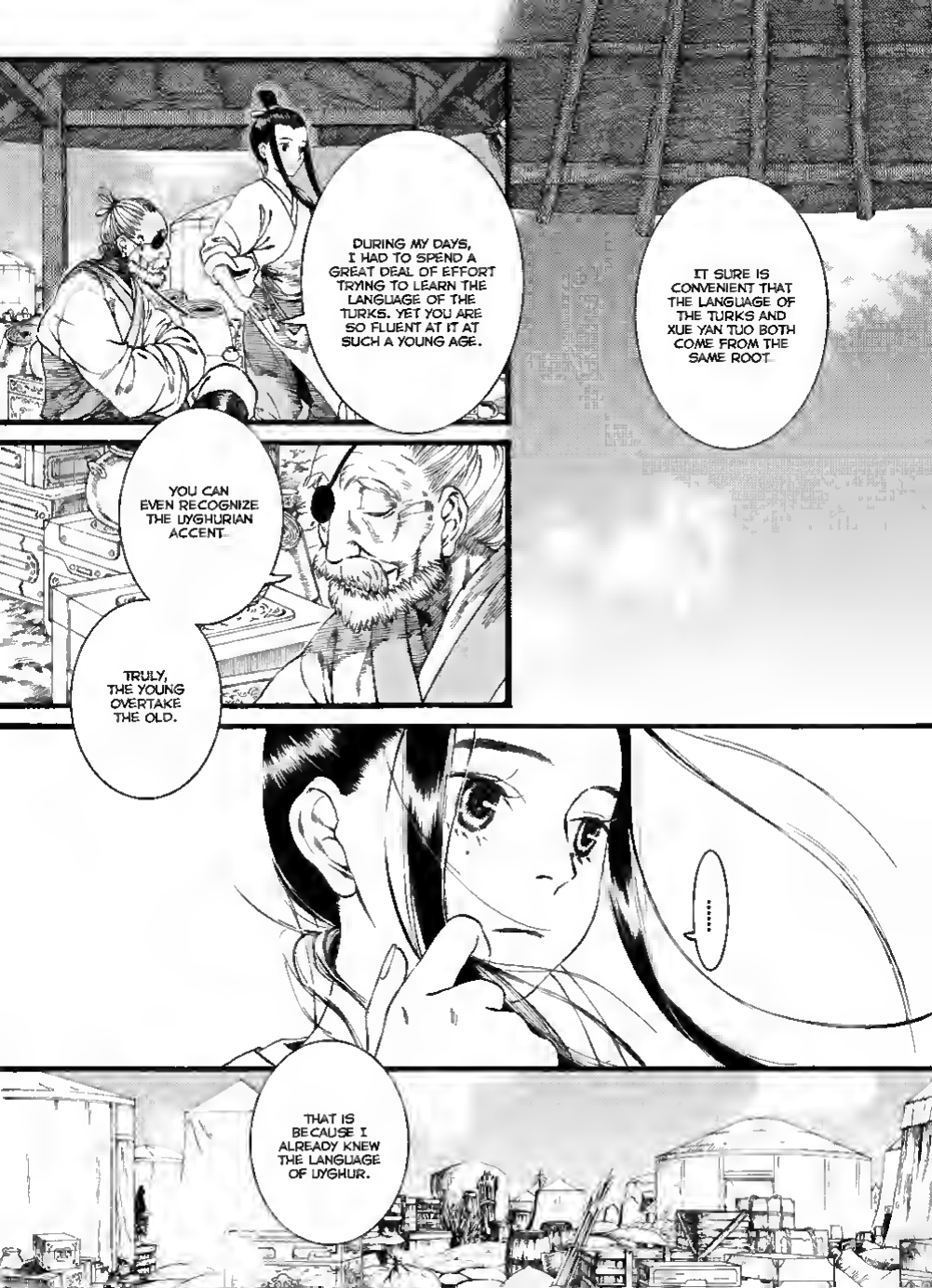
IF YOU WISH TO GET TO UYGHUR WITHOUT GETTING ROBBED BLIND BY THE TURKS,
PASSING THROUGH XUE YAN TUO WOULD BE YOUR FASTEST AND SAFEST OPTION.
Foreign Merchant
Sha Bo Li
WHY RUSH TO GET TO UYGHUR?
IN FACT, IF YOU TRAVEL FURTHER WEST, YOU'LL ARRIVE IN GOA CHANG AND GUI ZI. THEIR WINE, IRONWORK, AND TEXTILES CAN EASILY FETCH YOU A GOOD PROFIT.
Uyghur
Xue Yan Tuo
Eastern Turkic Khaganate
MR. SHA BO LI,
Tang
Xue Yan Tuo
Xue Yan

PLEASE GIVE US A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO XUE YAN TUO FIRST.
BOTH XUE YAN TUO AND UYGHUR USED TO BE PART OF THE EASTERN TURKS
BUT NOW XUE YAN TUO HAS PLEGED ITS ALLEGIANCE TO THE WESTERN TURKS.
ITS IRKIN* IS CALLED YI NAN. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM.
*T/N TITLE OF A TURKISH TRIBLE LEADER.
MERCHANTS ARE MOST WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.
THEY'LL BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU DECIDE TO ESTABLISH A TRADE ROUTE HERE

TAP
PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.
SOMETHING HAS COME UP I'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT FIRST.
UNCLE.
SHALL WE GO FOR A WALK?

XUE YAN TUO'S LEADER MUST BE A VERY CAPABLE PERSON,
DEFINI-TELY NOT TO BE UNDERE-STIMATED
TO BE ABLE TO SURVIVE AND PROSPER WHILE BALANCING THE THREAT OF BOTH THE WESTERN AND EASTERN TURKS.
SEEING MY NEPHEW IN SUCH HIGH SPIRITS,
GETS MY BLOOD PUMPING TOO

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IF UNCLE CAN BE CONSIDERED OLD, THAN THERE ARE NO STRONG EAGLES LEFT IN THE GRASSLANDS.
IT IS JUST THAT MY OLD AGE IS SLOWING ME DOWN
HAHA.
HMM.....
AS YOU SUSPECTED, IT WAS INDEED KHATUN OF THE EASTERN TURKS WHO WAS BEHIND THE ATTACK ON THE YAN HAN MEN.
DESPITE KNOWING HOW MUCH THE GREAT KHAN VALUES OUR SERVICES, SHE STILL RESORTED TO USING SUCH DECISIVE MANOUVERS... I FEAR THAT SOONER OR LATER, THE TURKS' BACKYARD WILL BE SET ALIGHT.
LOOKS LIKE THE SUI PRINCESS HAS SET HER EYES ON US.
INDEED, IN ORDER TO POUR MORE OIL ON THE FIRE, WE'LL HAVE TO MEET WITH THIS IRKIN YI NAN.


DURING MY DAYS, I HAD TO SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF EFFORT TRYING TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE OF THE TURKS. YET YOU ARE SO FLUENT AT IT AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
IT SURE IS CONVENIENT THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE TURKS AND XUE YAN TUO BOTH COME FROM THE SAME ROOT
YOU CAN EVEN RECOGNIZE THE UYGHURIAN ACCENT
TRULY, THE YOUNG OVERTAKE THE OLD.
.....
THAT IS BECAUSE I ALREADY KNEW THE LANGUAGE OF UYGHUR.

I SECRETLY SOUGHT OUT OTHER UYGHURS. I LEARNT THEIR LANGUAGE AND PRACTISED THEIR DANCES.
WHEN I FIRST LEARNED THAT MY MOTHER WAS FROM UYGHUR.
I WISHED TO SURPRISE HER.
IT TOOK ME TWO YEARS.
I WANTED TO PLEASE HIM.
MY FATHER THE GREAT KHAN FAVOURED KHATUN AND HAN STRATEGISTS.

WAS SHE GLAD?
I NEVER EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY.
...I DON'T KNOW.
SHE CRIED,
AND I DARED NOT MENTION IT AGAIN.

Chang An
LADY YUAN NIANG?
LADY YUAN NIANG!
IF YOU DON'T SHOW YOURSELF THIS INSTANT, THE TEACHER WILL GET ANGRY!
SHI QING MADE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE HIBISCUS CAKES!
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU MAY STOP NOW.
LEAVE HER TO ME.
HEAD STEWARD. .

JUST TELL HIM THAT THE WEATHER IS TOO HOT, SO IT WILL BE BETTER TO HOLD THE CLASSES NEAR THE WATER.
INVITE THE TEACHER TO SIT AT THE PAVILION AND MAKE SURE THAT YOU CATER TO HIS EVERY NEED
BRING THE PAPER AND INK OVER AS WELL.
I WILL BRING LADY YUAN NIANG OVER IN A MOMENT.
YES!

THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME...

I DON'T WANT TO LEARN ANY OF THAT!
IF YOU DO THIS AGAIN, I'LL REALLY GET ANGRY.
YOU HAVE TO AT LEAST COMPLETE THE INTRODUCTION CLASSES BEFORE YOU CAN CHOOSE WHAT YOU WISH TO LEARN.
XU FENG!
BESIDES, WHO TOLD YOU THAT WE WERE GOING OUT TO HAVE FUN?
THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK ON ME ANY-MORE.
SOB!
YOU'RE ALL SO MEAN! EVERYONE GETS TO GO OUTSIDE AND HAVE FUN, YET I HAVE TO STAY HERE.

Cough... HER CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SPECIAL
BESIDES, SHE HAD TO LEARN WAY MORE THAN YOU WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG...
OH, NO WONDER SHE WISHES TO BE A MAN.
THEN WHAT ABOUT "SIXTH SISTER?"
YOU, BROTHER DOU, MR QIN ARE ALL HEADING OUT!
...WE ARE MEN. WHEN WE GO OUT, IT'S FOR WORK.
A CROOKED STICK WILL HAVE A CROOKED SHADOW..
I'M DONE BEING A WOMAN AS WELL.
THAT'S NOT UP TO YOU. BE A GOOD GIRL AND GO TO THE TEACHER

IT'S BEEN A WHILE,
AH DOU.

HOW ABOUT A DRINK?
IT'S MY TREAT.
DON'T BE A STRANGER, COME. LET'S HAVE SOME QUALITY BONDING TIME.
SON OF A- LET GO OF ME!

DID YUAN'ER TELL YOU?
glug
glug
DID YOU FORGET WHO TAUGHT YOU HOW TO TRACK AND HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT?
WHY WOULD I NEED ANYONE'S HELP TO CATCH YOU?
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT CHANGING MY MIND.
I'M NOT GOING BACK!

RELAX,
WHY WOULD I SAY ANYTHING WHEN THE MASTER CHOSE TO REMAIN SILENT?
OR... MAYBE YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IF I DID?
BULLSHIT!
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR LIES!

YOU'RE INDEED DIFFERENT FROM US.
EVEN LESS IN BECOMING LIKE YOU, A SLAVE TO HER WILL!
TO BE HONEST,
I'M RATHER ENVIOUS OF YOU, SOMEONE THE MASTER CONSIDERS AS HER DISCIPLE.
YES.
ENVIOUS? ENVIOUS THAT SHE CAN'T EVEN BE BOTHERED TO TRY TO PERSUADE ME TO COME BACK?
SHE EVEN FEARS THAT YOUR RESPECT FOR HER AS TEACHER,
COULD GET IN THE WAY OF YOU MAKING YOUR OWN CHOICES.

SO ACCORDING TO YOU SHE IS THE ONE WITH THE GOOD INTENTIONS!?
AND I'M THE ONE IN THE WRONG?
SINCE WHEN IS THERE SO MANY CLEAR RIGHT AND WRONGS IN THIS WORLD?
IT'S MERELY A DIFFERENCE IN PERSPEC TIVES.
BESIDES,
ONLY ONE SELF CAN BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE'S OWN CHOICES. AM I RIGHT?

DID YOU REALLY HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT AL READY?
UNCLE QI,
YES, I'VE EATEN SOME AL-READY.
LET'S GO, IT'S GETTING DARK
PERHAPS WE CAN EVEN FIND SOME FOOD
THERE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE PEOPLE ALIVE IN THE NEXT VILLAGE.
THUMP
UNCLE QI?
OKAY.
THERE AREN'T SO MANY DEAD PEOPLE ALONG THIS ROAD.

UNCLE... QI?
YOU CAME TO FIND ME TODAY.
JUST TO TELL ME THIS?

THIS IS WHAT THE MASTER PROMISED BEFORE, YOUR SHARE OF THE ASSETS.
OF COURSE,
I'M ALSO ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS
UNLESS YOU DON'T WANT IT?
I DO!

THUD
UNPACKING THE SOONER WE EAT THE SOONER WE CAN REST
YES!

IF THAT HERDER'S DIRECTIONS ARE ACCURATE,
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH KHITAN DA HE CLAN'S TERRITORY BY NOON TOMORROW IF WE SET OFF EARLY
HEY,
WHY DID YOUR AUNT MARRY OFF TO A PLACE SO FAR AWAY? WILL SHE EVEN RECOGNIZE YOU?
HOW WOULD I KNOW?
SHE WAS MARRIED BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN.
I ONLY KNOW HER NAME IS ER GU, AND THAT HER HUBSAND IS CALLED AH TA LI.
ANYWAY, THAT IS WHAT GRANDPA TOLD ME.

ASHINA SUN.
I WON'T BETRAY YOU.
YO, WE'RE ALL COUNTING ON YOU.
YOU BETTER COME THROUGH FOR US.
IT'S FINE
I SWORE AN OATH TO GRANDPA.
EVEN IF YOU WISH TO HARM ME
I'LL STILLL TAKE YOU BACK TO KHITAN

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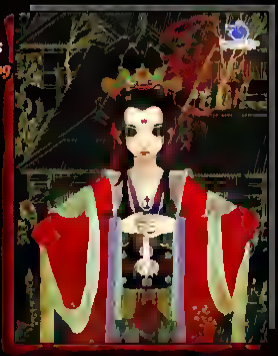

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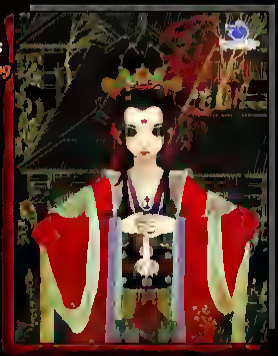

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